

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 265  
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to recognize Herman C. Ewing on the occasion  
of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Herman C. Ewing is one such estimable individual who has served with distinction for 33 years as the Executive Director of the Memphis Urban League; on March 31, 2003, he will enter into a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, before accepting his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Memphis Urban League in 1969, Mr. Ewing garnered valuable experience serving his community as a teacher of mathematics in the Hardeman County School System, as the Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary of the Board of Lay Activities of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, as the Director of Public Relations of Lane College and as a Field Representative and Director of Field Operations for the Division of Economic Opportunity of the Health and Welfare Council of Pulaski County, Arkansas; and

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WHEREAS, beginning his illustrious career with the Urban League in 1966 as the Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer of the Urban League of Greater Little Rock, in only three years, Herman Ewing expanded the four-member staff operating within a \$26,000 budget to a team of 18 individuals supported by an annual budget of \$210,000; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1969, Mr. Ewing commenced employment with the Urban League of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in his 33 remarkable years with the Urban League of Memphis, Herman Ewing more than tripled its number of staff members and its annual budget and made a lasting impression on the greater Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his calm and reasonable approach to resolving the City's race and economic problems, Herman C. Ewing believes that education, training and job placement are key in assisting dependent people to become independently productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ewing is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Herman Ewing contributes his time and numerous talents to the Council of Executives of the National Urban League (having served as Vice President), the Southern Regional Council of Executives of the National Urban League (having served as President), Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Miles Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Memphis Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., the Beta Phi Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Association of Executives of the United Way of Greater Memphis, the Leadership Memphis Program, the Board of Directors of the Memphis Rotary Club, the President's Circle of Christian Brothers University, the Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Day Care Center Board, Southwest Consultants (as founder and principal partner), Destination Memphis, Goals for Memphis and the Midtown Mental Health Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ewing is also a valuable member of the Regional Medical Center Advisory Council, the Memphis Literacy Council, the Council of Twenty of the University of Memphis, the Black Business Association, the National Council of Negro Women (honorary member), the President's Council of LeMoyne Owen College, the President's Advisory Council of Christian Brothers University, the Memphis Race Relations and Diversity Institute, the Board of Directors of the Memphis Rotary Club and the Economic Club of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, establishing his remarkable legacy of public service, Herman C. Ewing has also served the Memphis community as a negotiator for better and more effective police/community relations and through his involvement with the Police Advisory Commission, the Tennessee Commission on Human Development (under appointment by Governor Winfield Dunn and serving as Commissioner), the Memphis Home Town Plan, the Business Partnership Committee and the first Task Force on School Closings of the Memphis City Schools, the Memphis Board of Education Superintendent's Advisory Committee, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority (appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander and serving as the Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee), the Chancellor's Roundtable of the University of Tennessee Center for Health Services, the Community Relations Commission and the Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Ewing has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Herman Ewing has been honored with a Certificate of Merit from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Humanitarian Award from the Memphis Conference of Christians and Jews, a Certificate of Award in Effort and Proficiency in Community Welfare from Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, a Certificate of Recognition and Successful Completion of the Management and Development Training Program of the National Urban League, the Outstanding Achievement in Community Service Award from the

Wesley Guild of Miles Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the President's Award from Dr. C.A. Kirkendoll, President of Lane College; he was also recognized in *Outstanding Young Men of America* in 1987 and in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities* in 1961; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Ewing is most grateful to share both love and companionship with his wife and their children, Sherri Lynn Ewing and John Whitney Ewing; and

WHEREAS, Herman C. Ewing exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we thank Herman C. Ewing for his many years of astute service to the people of Memphis and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.